

Message Text

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17

ORIGIN EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARA-06 L-03 PM-04 INR-07 SSO-00 NSCE-00

SS-15 NSC-05 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 INRE-00 DODE-00 MC-02

IGA-02 /054 R

66620

DRAFTED BY:EA/ROC:MKLOSSON:ARCKC

APPROVED BY:EA/ROC:BLEVIN

PM/MC - MR BRYANT

PM/SAS - MR SMITH

ARA/CEN - MR PLATT

L/PM - MR MICHEL

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA IMMEDIATE

CINCPAC PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 297812

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652:XGDS-2

TAGS: MASS, PFOR, TW, US

SUBJECT: MORE ON THE ROC SALE OF AMMUNITION TO GUATEMALA

- -

REFERENCE: STATE 297271

1. ONE OF THE TWO FLYING TIGERS AIRCRAFT TRANSPORTING M16 RIFLE AMMUNITION TO GUATEMALA (REFTEL) WAS IMPOUNDED BY CUSTOMS IN HONOLULU BECAUSE THE COMPANY DID NOT HAVE A LICENSE TO TRANSPORT THIS AMMUNITION THROUGH THE US IN ACCORDANCE WITH US LAW. THE OTHER PLANE WILL ALSO BE IMPOUNDED WHEN IT LANDS DECEMBER 7. CUSTOMS OPENED ONE OF THE BOXES ON THE PLANE AND FOUND CANS MARKED "560 CARTRIDGES 5.56MM AMMUNITION." CUSTOMS PLANS TO SEIZE THE SHIPMENT.

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2. THE APPARENT BROKER, MEREX, HAS CONTACTED US FOR A IN-TRANSIT LICENSE. WE DO NOT INTEND TO ISSUE ONE -- IF AT ALL -- UNTIL WE DETERMINE WHETHER THE SALE OF THE AMMUNITION REQUIRED USG APPROVAL, AND IF SO, WHETHER APPROVAL WAS OBTAINED.

3. IN INVESTIGATING THIS SALE, WE HAVE FOUND A COMMERCIAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN OHLIN-WINCHESTER AND THE ROC COMBINED SERVICE FORCE FOR PRODUCTION OF BALL POWDER FOR M16 RIFLE

AND OTHER TYPES OF AMMUNITION, WHICH CONTAINED PROVISIONS BARRING THIRD COUNTRY TRANSFERS OF THIS POWDER WITHOUT PRIOR USG APPROVAL. WE HAVE ALSO DETERMINED THAT THE TECHNICAL DATA FOR THE MANUFACTURE OF 5.56MM AMMUNITION IS IN THE PUBLIC DOMAIN. WE CAN NOT FIND ANY RECORD OF AN FMS SALE OF EQUIPMENT TO MANUFACTURE SUCH AMMUNITION.

4. WE WOULD APPRECIATE ON AN URGENT BASIS ANY INFORMATION YOU HAVE DEVELOPED (REFTEL), ESPECIALLY INFORMATION RELATING TO THE ORIGIN OF THE TECHNOLOGY AND EQUIPMENT USED TO MANUFACTURE THE AMMUNITION.

5. WE HAVE RECEIVED SOME PRESS AND CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRIES ABOUT THE HOLD UP IN THE FLYING TIGERS FLIGHT PLANS. WE HAVE SAID THAT THE PLANES WERE DELAYED BECAUSE THEY DID NOT HAVE A LICENSE AUTHORIZING TRANSIT OF THE AMMUNITION THROUGH THE US. ROBINSON

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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